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White House To Monitor U.S. Spying

By Walter Pincus
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President Ford's plan to prevent future abuses by the U.S. intelligence community will be unveiled this week, according to White House sources.

Although some decisions have not yet been made, the basic ingredients of the package are:

- An independent White House board to monitor intelligence agencies'

adherence to new presidential directives containing "Thou Shalt Not's." Some directives will be stated publicly in revised agency charters, while others will be classified because they relate to secret operations.

Inspector general offices in each agency will be strengthened and directed to report improprieties to their chiefs and to the White House board. The board will have investigatory power and will be required to report abuses to the President and findings of alleged criminal activities to the Attorney General.

The new board would not oversee intelligence collection or analysis as does the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board under present White House organization.

- Executive oversight of FBI domestic intelligence, counterintelligence and foreign intelligence collection operations will remain responsibility of the Attorney General, but with presidential directives as basis for new guidelines.

- The director of central intelligence will become the chief White House assistant on intelligence and have budgetary control over all agencies gathering foreign intelligence including those of the military services, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the National Reconnaissance Organization which operates spy satellites.

At present, the CIA director is supervisor of the foreign intelligence community in name only. He chairs most intelligence interagency committees, but has no real power to change budgets or operations of Pentagon-based agencies, for example.

The Defense Department, according to informed sources, opposes giving the CIA director this added power, arguing he would no longer be "neutral."

- Intelligence analysis for the President and his top advisers will be put together in a new White House unit that would serve as a "mainline channel free of institutional policy bias," according to one

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Ford Plan Prepared On Spying

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presidential aide. This group would serve as the DCI's White House staff, according to one source, and seek to replace the present "indistinguishable boards and panels that tend to fuzz their product to prevent clear accountability."

- The DIA would be continued since the President wants to preserve competition in intelligence production. The House intelligence committee recommended it be abolished and the Senate committee reportedly also favors its abolition.

- Covert action by the CIA and clandestine intelligence collection by all agencies would continue but under sharply restricted presidential guidelines.

- A secrecy law will be proposed that would apply only to active and retired CIA and other government employees with access to classified intelligence information. It would be a crime for a covered individual to disclose intelligence sources and methods, and the government could go to court to enjoin such an individual from making a disclosure.

The President will not according to a White House aide, seek to include congressional aides or members of Congress under this new secrecy law.

- The President will not send to Congress any recommendations for future congressional oversight of the intelligence community. As a former congressman, Mr. Ford, according to one aide, does not believe a President "should tell them how to run their branch and Congress should not try to run the executive."

White House aides are quick to point out that the President sees his reorganization proposals as a way to stake out goals for the foreign intelligence community and try to re-establish public trust in secret agencies.

"There has been strong disagreement on everything," one Ford aide said, "including even this approach to try and reorganize the intelligence community rather than just limiting the President's effort to a damage assessment operation."

Attorney General Edward H. Levi, for example, visited President Ford Friday afternoon to make a special plea on one part of the latest draft that affects the FBI. Other last-minute requests for changes and suggestions are expected in the next few days.

The primary aims of the President's program will be accomplished through executive orders and National Security Council intelligence directives. Thus, the Ford program will be going into effect while congressional committees are still dealing with recommendations developed from the past year's investigations.

The Ford intelligence package is the product of almost five months' study by an intelligence coordinating group headed by White House counselor John O. Marsh Jr. Also in the group were Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger; former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger and his successor, Donald Rumsfeld; Attorney General Levi; presidential counsel Philip W. Buchen; former CIA Director William E. Colby and George Bush, his successor; Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the President's national security affairs adviser; Office of Management and Budget Director James T. Lynn, and White House aide Michael Duval, who served as executive secretary.

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Ford Reform Plan Could Be
Delayed by Disputes—
Meeting Today Set

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15—Sharp disputes within the Administration over proposals to control the intelligence agencies could delay President Ford's announcement of reforms and dilute their impact, Administration sources said today.

The White House has scheduled a tentative meeting tomorrow with the heads of the intelligence agencies in hopes of ironing out differences over four areas of proposed controls. If agreement can be reached, President Ford is expected to make some public announcement of his reforms on Wednesday.

Nevertheless, both Administration and intelligence sources confirmed, the schisms are deep and emotional.

"There are people in the Government with some very strong feeling on these issues," one source said. An intelligence source said that one published report on the President's plan contained "a tone of finality that was wishful thinking."

4 Areas in Dispute

The proposals creating the clearest differences, the sources said, fall into these areas: giving the director of Central Intelligence the power to control other intelligence agencies' operations, publication of the tasks of the various agencies, creation of a White House panel to oversee intelligence operations, and what legislative proposals the White House should make.

On the first point, a study group within the White House headed by a Presidential counsel, John O. Marsh Jr., has prepared a plan to end a power struggle over who should head the intelligence community that has been fought since the National Security Act of 1947 created the post of Director of Central Intelligence.

The proposal would give the director the tools to govern—budgetary control over member agencies—that he has lacked.

The Department of Defense, however, is strongly opposed to the concept of a director who would oversee all intelligence activities. The argument is deep-seated. For instance, a director of intelligence with budgetary control would, in effect, have command over large expenditures actually made by the Defense Department. It would mean that the Secretary of Defense, Donald H. Rumsfeld, and his new deputy for intelligence, Robert F. Ellsworth, would have less power on intelligence decisions than George Bush, the Director of Central Intelligence.

The second issue in disputes is that the White House plan calls for publicly outlining the roles of the intelligence agencies and the publication, in general terms, of the limitations Mr. Ford plans to place on them.

Several powerful segments of the intelligence community oppose this publication. They argue, for instance, that the United States has never before felt it had to identify the agencies it had doing secret work and that there is no need to now. Moreover, they say this country has not established what legitimate secrets are and it may be that once the nation selects a limit for official secrecy, some agencies and activities would "legitimately" remain in the shadows.

Task of N.S.A.

Particularly sensitive, these sources said, is whether the nation can officially disclose the assignment of the National Security Agency, which does worldwide electronic intelligence collection, without harming security.

State Department and long-time Central Intelligence Agency officials have opposed publishing the tasks of secret agencies on diplomatic grounds. They argue that once the United States establishes officially that certain agencies are in the field of intelligence and espionage, foreign governments must then officially oppose their operating in those countries.

The third area of controversy looms over the question of oversight of the intelligence community within the executive branch. President Ford has already decided not to attempt to influence the method Congress chooses to increase legislative

control of intelligence, the sources said.

The White House plan envisages a four-man or five-man oversight board within the executive branch that would get direct reports from the inspector generals of the various agencies. However, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has a counterintelligence function, would not be covered this apparatus, one source said.

Stronger Agencies

The Administration decided last summer to strengthen the inspector general offices of the agencies and the C.I.A.'s office already has an expanded staff.

This move would downgrade the Presidential Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which was created in the early 1960's to advise the President on intelligence matters.

The new board would have the power to recommend to the Attorney General that a particular activity in a particular agency was abusive and subject to possible disciplinary action or prosecution.

Some elements of the intelligence community have complained that this is unnecessary since the outcry in Congress and the country for control of intelligence has abated.

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There's also controversy over what legislation the President should offer. Most officials agree that a strengthening of sanctions against the disclosure of national security information, a sort of official secrets act, is needed. The White House plan would provide legal penalties for violations by persons who signed a secrecy agreement in their government work.

There are substantial areas of Mr. Ford's proposals that are not controversial and that have been reported in the press over the last year.

The White House plan brings the entire foreign intelligence apparatus more directly under Presidential control, excludes political assassination as a technique of covert action, and sharply limits and defines covert actions in general.

The Attorney General would assume a stronger role in oversight and discipline of abuses and would have to approve electronic surveillance and mail opening in intelligence cases throughout government.

The 40 Committee, the section of the National Security Council that advises the President on covert actions, would be required to meet and make its decisions in a more formal manner with records that provide a history of operations.